

Title 30-A: MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES
HEADING: PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (new)

Chapter 163: TRANSPORTATION HEADING: PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (new)

Table of Contents

Part 2. MUNICIPALITIES	
Subpart 5. HEALTH, WELFARE AND IMPROVEMENTS	
Section 3501. DEFINITIONS.....	3
Section 3502. FORMATION; POWERS.....	4
Section 3503. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.....	5
Section 3504. MANAGEMENT.....	5
Section 3505. SINGLE MUNICIPAL OR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT.....	7
Section 3506. OFFICERS; MEETINGS; EMPLOYEES.....	7
Section 3507. INTEREST IN CONTRACTS.....	8
Section 3508. CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION.....	8
Section 3509. POWERS OF DIRECTORS.....	9
Section 3510. EMINENT DOMAIN; APPEAL.....	10
Section 3511. EXEMPT FROM TAXATION; FUEL TAX REFUND.....	11
Section 3512. NOTES; SECURITIES.....	11
Section 3513. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING; RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES.....	13
Section 3514. LIMITATION ON CHARTER SERVICE.....	13
Section 3515. ROUTES AND FARES; SINKING FUND.....	14
Section 3516. ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURES; CONTRIBUTIONS; BUDGET.....	14
Section 3517. WARRANT FOR TAXES.....	16
Section 3518. WITHDRAWAL.....	17
Section 3519. DISSOLUTION.....	17

Maine Revised Statutes

Title 30-A: MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES HEADING: PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (new)

Chapter 163: TRANSPORTATION HEADING: PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (new)

§3501. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. District. "District" or "transit district" includes:

A. A district created by vote of a single municipality; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. A district created by vote of a group of municipalities; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. A municipality voting to provide mass transportation service without the creation of a district; and [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. A regional transportation corporation, except that sections 3510, 3512 and 3517 do not apply to a regional transportation corporation. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); 1989, c. 726, §1 (AMD) .]

2. Regional transportation corporation. "Regional transportation corporation" means any private, nonprofit corporation formed for the express purpose of providing public transportation services to more than one municipality but which is not wholly or partly owned by the municipalities. The corporation must be approved, for the purpose of providing public transportation services, by the municipal officers of each community to receive public transportation services from the corporation. After being approved by the municipal officers of 5 or more communities, such a corporation shall be duly certified as a regional transportation corporation by the Department of Transportation and is subject to all applicable Public Utilities Commission rules governing charter and rates of fare.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System. "Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System" means the federally designated planning organization for the Portland region established to improve the coordination of transportation planning and investment decisions by state, municipal and public transportation organizations.

[2009, c. 18, §1 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). 1989, c. 726, §1 (AMD). 2009, c. 18, §1 (AMD).

§3502. FORMATION; POWERS

1. Formation. By vote of its legislative body, any municipality may by itself, or in cooperation with one or more other municipalities, form a transit district for the purposes provided in this chapter.

A. Municipalities not in the same geographic public transportation region must gain approval from the Department of Transportation before forming a transit district under this section. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. With the consent of the Department of Transportation and of the municipal officers of any municipality not included in a transit district, a transit district may provide transportation services within that municipality. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10 (AMD).]

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. General powers; area of service. The district formed under subsection 1 is a body politic and corporate, and may sue, be sued, plead and be impleaded, adopt a name, adopt and alter a common seal and do all things necessary to furnish motor vehicle mass transportation within that district, including charter service, for public purposes in the interest of the health, safety, comfort and convenience of the inhabitants of the municipality or municipalities comprising the district.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. Incidental rights. All incidental powers, rights and privileges necessary to accomplish the main objective set forth in this chapter are granted to a district created. Such a district is subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission only to the extent provided in this chapter.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

4. Prohibition. Except for the following items, a transit district may not sell, rent or lease goods or services to any entity other than the State, a municipality, quasi-municipal corporation or transit district, unless those goods or services are essential to the purchaser and are not available from another source:

A. Advertising space on vehicles owned by the transit district; [1989, c. 726, §2 (NEW) .]

B. Existing vacant office or storage space owned by the transit district; and [1989, c. 726, §2 (NEW).]

C. Used equipment not originally purchased for resale. [1989, c. 726, §2 (NEW).]

Transit districts subject to regulation by the Public Utilities Commission under Title 35-A, Part 5, are exempt from this subsection.

[1989, c. 726, §2 (NEW) .]

5. Penalty. Any transit district violating subsection 4, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000, payable to the State, and recoverable in a civil action.

[1989, c. 726, §2 (NEW) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). 1989, c. 726, §2 (AMD).

§3503. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any municipality which is contiguous to any other municipality authorized to provide transportation services under this chapter or contiguous to any municipality which is a member of the transit district may apply to the transit district and the board of directors may accept or refuse the application for membership. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3504. MANAGEMENT

The affairs of a district formed under section 3502 shall be managed by a board of directors chosen from the inhabitants of the municipality or municipalities comprising the district. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Number of directors. Except as provided in subsection 3, each municipality is entitled to one director for each 10,000 inhabitants of the municipality or fraction of that number, as determined by the latest Federal Decennial Census, in accordance with the following schedule:

A. 0 to 10,000--1; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. 10,001 to 20,000--2; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. 20,001 to 30,000--3; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. 30,001 to 40,000--4; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

E. 40,001 to 50,000--5; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

F. 50,001 to 60,000--6; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

G. 60,001 to 70,000--7; and [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

H. Over 70,001--8. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. Appointment; terms; quorum. The municipal officers of each municipality shall appoint the directors of a transit district. Initially, the directors' terms of office shall be determined by lot at their first organizational meeting as follows: One-third of those appointed shall serve for 3 years, 1/3 for 2 years and the remaining number for one year. All subsequent appointments are for a term of 3 years. Directors shall serve until their successors have been appointed, with vacancies being filled for the unexpired portion of the respective terms.

A majority of the directors constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. Action taken by 2/3 of the directors present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance is considered to be the action of the full board of directors.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. Greater Portland Transit District. The board of directors of the Greater Portland Transit District, composed of the City of Portland, the City of Westbrook and the Town of Falmouth, consists of 5 directors appointed from the City of Portland, 3 directors appointed from the City of Westbrook and 2 directors appointed from the Town of Falmouth. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this chapter, the board of directors of the Greater Portland Transit District may receive and accept applications for membership from other municipalities located wholly or partially within the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System whether or not they are contiguous to other members of the Greater Portland Transit District and may determine the number of directors to be appointed from those municipalities to the board of directors of the Greater Portland Transit District on any basis that is mutually agreed upon by the municipality applying for membership and the board of directors of the Greater Portland Transit District. The member municipalities may, by ordinance, provide that their appointees serve at the will of the appointing power or for terms that are shorter than those established in subsection 2.

[2009, c. 18, §2 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). 2009, c. 18, §2 (AMD).

§3505. SINGLE MUNICIPAL OR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

1. Formation of district. If a single municipality votes to create a transit district, its municipal officers shall appoint 5 directors from the inhabitants of the municipality. These directors have the same terms of office, powers, duties and privileges as set forth in this chapter.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. Operation without forming district. A single municipality, by vote of its legislative body, or a regional transportation corporation, by vote of its board of directors, may be empowered to perform the functions provided in this chapter without creating a district. Thereafter, that single municipality or regional transportation corporation has all of the powers, duties and privileges established applicable to a district, unless specifically excluded. The municipal officers of that municipality or directors of that regional transportation corporation have the same powers, duties and privileges granted under this chapter to the board of directors of a district.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3506. OFFICERS; MEETINGS; EMPLOYEES

1. Officers; bylaws. The directors shall elect from among their members a president, treasurer, clerk and any other officers that they desire and shall adopt bylaws and regulations for the conduct of the district's affairs.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. Meetings. The directors shall meet at least 4 times a year or more often if required by the bylaws, and upon the call of the president. The president shall call any other meetings that are requested in writing directed to the president and signed by at least 1/3 of the members of the board of directors.

[1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §31 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. District manager; employees. The directors shall appoint and fix the salary of a district manager who may not be a director. The district manager is the chief executive officer of the district. The district manager shall appoint any other employees that are required for district purposes and fix the salaries of those employees. The directors may, by resolution, indicate which appointments by the manager and salaries established by the manager will require confirmation of the board of directors.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD).
1989, c. 104, §§A31,C8,C10 (AMD).

§3507. INTEREST IN CONTRACTS

No director, officer or employee of the district may be interested directly or indirectly in any contract entered into by or in behalf of a district for work or material, or the purchase of material, or in any property acquired or to be acquired by the district. All contracts made in violation of this section are void. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD).
1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3508. CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION

After its organization, the district shall file a certificate with the Secretary of State setting forth the following information: [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Name. Name of the district;

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. Purposes. Its purposes;

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. Municipalities included. Municipalities included within the district;

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

4. Location. Location of the principal office;

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

5. Names of directors. Number and names of the directors and their addresses; and

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

6. Names of officers. Names and addresses of the officers.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

This certificate shall be signed by the president and treasurer and a majority of the directors, and the president or treasurer shall swear that the signatures set forth in the certificate are true. From time to time as changes occur, the district shall file an amended certificate with the Secretary of State setting forth those changes. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3509. POWERS OF DIRECTORS

For the purpose of providing mass transportation services wholly or partially within the municipalities comprising the district, the directors of a district may: [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

1. Powers over property. Take, purchase, hold, maintain, operate, lease, rent, mortgage and convey any real and personal property;

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. Leasing property. Lease or sublease any real and personal property;

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. Private contracts. Enter into contracts with private companies; or

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

4. Government contracts. Contract with the Federal Government, State Government and municipal governments for donations, loans, grants, gifts or other assistance. The directors may agree in these contracts to be bound by all applicable provisions of federal, state or municipal laws, regulations and rules.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3510. EMINENT DOMAIN; APPEAL

A district may acquire for the public purposes of a district by purchase or by the exercise of the power of eminent domain any and all real property of any person, including the real and personal property and franchise of any person operating a local mass transportation service within any municipality comprising a district. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Determination of damages. If the district and the owner are unable to agree on a price within 60 days after the district has notified the owner of its intention to exercise its power of eminent domain, the board of directors of a district may, by resolution, take and acquire all or any part of the real and personal property and franchise of that owner, and shall determine the amount to be paid to the owner for that taking. Upon payment of this amount, or if payment is refused, upon depositing this amount with the treasurer of the district to be held in trust separate and apart from other funds of the district, the district may take and become the owner of the real and personal property and franchise set forth in the resolution.

A. Within 30 days after payment or tender, the board of directors shall have recorded in the registry of deeds in the county where the land and property is located:

(1) A certified copy of the resolution; and

(2) A description of any real property and a plan of the real property, together with a description of any personal property taken under this section. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The district shall have a certified copy of the resolution of the board of directors and a certified copy of the filing in the registry of deeds either delivered personally to the owner or the owner's agent or sent by registered mail to the owner. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. If the district acquires, by eminent domain, real or personal property in connection with a project involving federal participation under the United States Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, Public Law 88-365, the district shall, in that acquisition, comply with all of the procedures established under that Act for acquiring real or personal property. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. Appeal to Superior Court. If the owner is aggrieved at the damages awarded for a taking under this section, the owner may appeal from the award to the Superior Court of the county in which the property lies by filing a complaint in that court and serving the district with a copy of the complaint within 60 days from the date of the recording in the registry of deeds. The complaint must set forth substantially the facts, but shall not state the amount of the damages previously awarded to the owner. The damages may be determined in the Superior Court by a committee of reference if the parties so agree, or by a verdict of its jury. The committee of reference shall be allowed a reasonable compensation for their services, to be fixed by the court upon the

presentation of their report and paid from the county treasury upon the certificate of the clerk of courts. If the damages are increased, the district shall pay the damages and costs; otherwise, the appellant shall pay the costs.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. Appeal to Law Court. An appeal may be taken by any party from the Superior Court's judgment to the Supreme Judicial Court as in other cases.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3511. EXEMPT FROM TAXATION; FUEL TAX REFUND

The property, both real and personal, of a district, whether held and operated by itself or leased to a private operator, for the purpose of providing mass transportation as provided in this chapter, is exempt from all registration fees, real, personal, excise, sales and use, and any other taxes which are assessed by the State or any political subdivision of the State. A district, or its lessee, or any person contracting with the district for the purpose of furnishing mass transportation, is entitled to be reimbursed and paid to the extent of the full amount of the tax paid for fuel used in motor vehicles owned and operated by them for that purpose. That district, lessee or person shall present its claim to the State Tax Assessor in the form and with any information that the State Tax Assessor requires, accompanied by original invoices showing the purchases. Applications for refunds as provided must be filed with the State Tax Assessor within 9 months from the date of purchase. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3512. NOTES; SECURITIES

1. Securities defined. As used in this section, "securities" means negotiable bonds or notes issued by the district, including temporary notes.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. Notes and securities authorized. For accomplishing the purposes of this chapter and for paying any indebtedness and any necessary expenses and liabilities incurred for that purpose, including organizational and other necessary expenses, the district by vote of its board of directors may:

A. Borrow money temporarily and issue its negotiable notes for that money; and [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. From time to time, issue securities of the district in one series or in separate series in such amount or amounts, bearing interest at such rate or rates and having such terms and provisions as the board of directors determines. These securities may be issued with or without provision for calling the securities before maturity and, if callable, may be made callable at par or at any premium determined by the board of directors. The board of directors may from time to time issue its securities in one series or in separate series for the purpose of paying, redeeming or refunding outstanding securities. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. Form of notes and securities. All negotiable notes authorized for temporary borrowing shall be signed on behalf of the district by its treasurer and countersigned by its president. All securities shall have the corporate name of the district inscribed on their face, shall be signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the president and, if coupon bonds are issued, the interest coupons attached to the securities shall bear the facsimile of the treasurer's signature.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

4. Legal obligations; investment by banks; tax exempt. All securities issued by the district are legal obligations of the district. The district is deemed to be a quasi-municipal corporation within the meaning of section 2604, subsection 3, and that section applies to the district. All securities issued under this section are legal investments for savings banks in this State and are tax-exempt.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

5. Sinking fund. If the securities are to be payable for a specified term of years, the board of directors shall establish a sinking fund for the purpose of paying or redeeming the securities when they become due. The board of directors shall determine annually the sum, with interest, to be paid into the sinking fund by each municipality comprising the district. This sum shall be based on the same formula used in computing the operating deficit payment.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3513. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING; RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES

1. Bargaining authorized; contracts. The directors of a district may bargain collectively and enter into written contracts with duly authorized labor organizations representing employees other than executive, administrative or professional personnel. These contracts may provide for wages, salaries, hours, working conditions and benefits, including, but not limited to, provisions pertaining to health and welfare, insurance, vacations, holidays, sick leave, seniority, arbitration, pensions and retirement.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. Rights of employees. It is declared to be the public policy of this State for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare that employees covered by contracts made under this section shall be accorded all of the rights of labor, except for the right to strike or engage in any work stoppage or slowdown.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. Employees of acquired transportation system. Whenever a district acquires any local mass transportation system under this chapter and operates that system or leases or contracts for the operation of that system under this chapter, the individual employees of that system shall be retained in positions the same as, or no worse than, their positions before the district's acquisition of the system to the fullest extent possible consistent with sound management and to the extent required by the service to be rendered from time to time by the district, its lessee or contractor. Any such employee not retained or laid off after retention because of lack of work or curtailment of service shall be assured priority of employment or reemployment when a position for which that employee is qualified becomes available.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3514. LIMITATION ON CHARTER SERVICE

Charter service provided by the district must originate or terminate at some point within that district. Charter service provided by a district is in all respects subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission in the same manner and to the same extent as private companies providing charter service, except that a regional transportation corporation may not provide any charter service other than that specifically provided for under the conditions of any license granted the corporation by the Public Utilities Commission. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3515. ROUTES AND FARES; SINKING FUND

1. Establishment of routes and fares. Except as provided in paragraphs A and B, the directors of a district shall establish such routes and fix such rates of fare to be charged for the mass transportation service as will, to the extent possible, reasonably ensure sufficient income to meet the cost of the service, including, but not limited to, operating expenses, insurance, taxes, rentals, annual serial bond payments, interest, allocation for a reserve account and an allowance for depreciation.

A. The directors of a district that participates in a regional operations plan that has been approved in accordance with Title 23, section 4209, shall establish routes and fixed fares in accordance with the plan whenever the plan requires. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The director of a regional transportation corporation shall not fix any rates of fare to be charged for mass transportation other than that specifically provided for under the conditions of any license granted the corporation by the Department of Transportation. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. Use of surplus; sinking fund. If, after all such obligations have been met, a surplus remains, the directors may deposit all or any part of the surplus in a reserve account or in the sinking fund created by this chapter. If all or any part of the surplus is deposited in the sinking fund, the amount of the annual commitment to the tax assessors of the municipalities comprising the district covering payments to the sinking fund shall be reduced by the amount of that deposit.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. Hearing required. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing before making any major changes in routes in the district or in the fare structure of the district.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3516. ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURES; CONTRIBUTIONS; BUDGET

1. Estimate of expenditures and revenues. By November 1st of each year, the board of directors shall prepare and submit to the municipal officers of the municipalities comprising the district an itemized estimate of expenditures and revenues for the following calendar year, which shall be the fiscal year. This estimate must include the following:

A. An itemized estimate of anticipated revenues during the ensuing fiscal year from each source; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. An itemized estimate of expenditures for each classification for the ensuing fiscal year, including payments of principal and interest on bonds or notes issued or to be issued by the district; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. After the first year of operation, an itemized statement of all actual receipts from all sources to, and including September 30th of each previous fiscal year, with estimated receipts from those sources shown for the balance of the year; [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. After the first year of operation, an itemized statement of all actual expenditures, up to and including September 30th of each previous fiscal year, with estimated expenditures shown for the balance of the year; and [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

E. An estimate of revenue surplus or deficit of the district for the fiscal year for which estimates are being prepared. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

2. Determination of municipal contributions. Each year, before submitting the estimates required by subsection 1 to the municipal officers, the board of directors of the district, by a 2/3 vote of its entire membership, shall establish a formula for contributions to be made by each municipality in order to defray any projected deficit. This formula and estimated amount of the contribution required from each municipality shall be shown in the estimates filed with the municipal officers of each municipality.

A. The formula shall be based upon such items as route mileage, profit or loss resulting from the service to the municipality, population and any other factors that the board of directors considers relevant. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. If the board of directors is unable to establish the formula by a 2/3 vote of its entire membership, it shall, by November 1st:

(1) Petition the Public Utilities Commission; and

(2) Include with its submission of the estimates to the municipal officers of each municipality a statement that a formula has not been established but that a petition has been made to the Public Utilities Commission for findings and a decision with respect to a formula. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. If a municipality refuses to accept a formula established by the board of directors and submitted to it by November 1st, the municipal officers of the municipality shall, within 30 days after the submission, notify the board of directors of their refusal. The board of directors shall then, by December 15th, petition the Public Utilities Commission as provided in paragraph B. Upon the filing of the district's petition, the Public Utilities Commission, after notice to all the municipalities comprising the district and a hearing, shall consider the formula and make its findings and decision with respect to the formula within 60 days from the filing of the district's petition. The findings and decision of the Public Utilities Commission are binding upon the district and the municipalities. The district or any municipality may appeal from the findings and decision of the Public Utilities Commission in accordance with Title 35-

A, section 1320. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

3. Budget; payment of allocations. By March 1st of each year, the board of directors shall adopt a final budget for that year which shall be itemized in the same manner as the estimate of expenditures and revenues under subsection 1. This budget shall be submitted immediately to the municipal officers of the municipalities comprising the district and the amounts allocated to each municipality to defray any projected revenue deficit in the budget shall be included in the warrant to the assessors of each municipality as provided in section 3517.

A. If an appeal from any findings and decision of the Public Utilities Commission as provided in subsection 2, paragraph C, is pending on March 1st, the allocations shall be made in accordance with the findings and decision of the Public Utilities Commission from which the appeal was taken. Any adjustments to these allocations required to be made in accordance with the decision upon any such appeal shall be made as follows.

(1) If the allocation to any municipality is increased, the additional payment shall be included in the current assessment or, if the increase is made after April 1st, the additional payment shall be certified to the municipal officers of the municipality who shall appropriate the amount of the increase out of unappropriated surplus, a contingency fund or shall raise that amount by issuing temporary notes which must be payable within one year from their dates.

(2) If the allocation to any municipality is decreased, the amount of the decrease shall be deducted from the current assessment or, if the decrease is made after April 1st, shall be paid by the district to the treasurer of the municipality from funds received from municipalities whose allocation is increased. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §C8,10 (AMD).

§3517. WARRANT FOR TAXES

Before April 1st of each year, the directors shall issue their warrant in the same form as the warrant of the Treasurer of State for taxes, with proper changes, to the assessors of the municipalities comprising the district. The warrant shall require the municipalities to assess the sum allocated to each municipality for payment of the operating deficit and the sum allocated to each municipality for payment into the sinking fund, if any, upon the taxable estates within those municipalities and to commit their assessment to the constable or collector of the municipalities. The constable or collector has all the authority and powers to collect these taxes as is vested by law to collect state, county and municipal taxes. Within 30 days after the date fixed by the municipality on which its taxes are due, the treasurer of the municipality shall pay the amount of the tax assessed under this section to the treasurer of the district. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Failure to pay. If the treasurer of a municipality fails to pay the sum assessed under this section, or fails to pay any part of the sum by the date set in the year in which the tax is levied, the treasurer of the district may issue a warrant for the amount of the tax, or so much of the tax as remains unpaid, to the sheriff of the appropriate county, requiring the sheriff to levy by distress and sale on real and personal property of any of the inhabitants of the municipality. The sheriff or any of the deputies shall execute the warrant.

[1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3518. WITHDRAWAL

A municipality may withdraw from the district at the end of a fiscal year provided that it has given the board of directors at least one year's written notice of its intention to do so. The municipality must pay its proportionate share of the current indebtedness of the district before withdrawal and must agree by appropriate written document to pay its proportionate share of any long-term indebtedness of the district as that indebtedness becomes due and payable. During the period of notice, the withdrawing municipality does not become liable for any capital expenditures or borrowings which may be made by the district. The proportionate share of the withdrawing municipality in any current and long-term indebtedness of the district shall be in accordance with the formula then in effect for payment of the current and long-term indebtedness. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

§3519. DISSOLUTION

At such time as a district has discharged all of its obligations and paid or provided for the payment of all of its bonded indebtedness, the board of directors may, by 2/3 vote of its membership, dissolve the district and dispose of all of its property, real and personal, in the manner authorized and directed by the board of directors. The treasurer may execute any deeds, bills of sales or any documents required for that purpose. All money, if any, remaining in the hands of the treasurer of the district shall be paid to the municipalities comprising the district as of the date of dissolution in accordance with the formula then in effect for the payment of any operating deficit. [1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); 1989, c. 6, (AMD); 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). 1989, c. 6, (AMD). 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 126th Maine Legislature and is current through August 1, 2014. The text is subject to

change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.